



GENESIS HISTORY

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Life Group Questions



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- ➊ **Head:** Will we dissent or consent with God about His blessings when they are conferred upon us in ways that are different than we expected?
- ➋ Until our dying day, let us hold fast, by faith to the promises of God, especially the promises that will be fulfilled beyond our lifetime.
- ➌ God is our Redeeming Shepherd, may we walk in His presence, as the patriarchs did, with integrity in head, heart, and hands. (Genesis 48)

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- **Heart:** (1) How can we balance acknowledging both the hardships and blessings in our lives, rather than focusing only on difficulties or only on God's favor?
- (2) When God's blessings come in unexpected or 'crisscross' ways that don't match our plans, do we tend to dispute with God like Joseph did, or consent to His wisdom? Where does that originate? (Genesis 48)



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- **Heart:** (3) Jacob adopted his grandsons to honor the children Rachel would have had if she'd lived—how does this demonstrate redemptive thinking about loss and legacy? Is there one example in your life where God is doing this?
- (4) In what ways might we be showing favoritism or partiality in our families or communities, and how can we address the dysfunction this creates?

(Genesis 48)



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- ✿ **Heart:** (5) What promises or visions has God given you that may not be fulfilled in your lifetime, and how can you faithfully pass them on to the next generation?
- ✿ (6) How does the image of God as our 'redeeming shepherd' who shows up in every crisis encourage you in your current circumstances? (Genesis 48)

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- Hands: Choose ONE of the following to practice this week:
 - Option 1: **Create a "Blessing List":** Write down 20 ways God has blessed you (like the sermon did for Jacob). Keep it somewhere visible and add to it regularly.
 - Option 2: **Have a "Vision Conversation":** Talk with your children, grandchildren, or someone you mentor about God's promises and what you hope they'll carry forward after you're gone.
 - Option 3: **Practice Consent:** Identify one area where God's blessing or answer looks different than you expected. Pray specifically to consent to God's way rather than dissent.

(Genesis 48)



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- Hands: Choose ONE of the following to practice this week:
 - Option 4: **Study the Pattern:** Read through Genesis and track all the times God chose the unexpected person or method. Journal what this teaches you about God's character.
 - Option 5: **Bless Someone Unexpectedly:** Like Jacob blessed his grandsons, speak a verbal blessing over someone this week - your children, a friend, a coworker, or someone younger in the faith.
 - Option 6: **Address Favoritism:** If you've shown favoritism in relationships, take steps to correct it. If you've been hurt by favoritism, bring it to God in prayer and consider whether reconciliation is possible.

(Genesis 48)



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Five Day Devotional

Day 1: God's Unexpected Ways

Reading: Genesis 48:1-7

[R] Devotional: Jacob's adoption of Joseph's sons reminds us that God's blessings rarely follow our expected patterns. Just as Jacob elevated Ephraim and Manasseh to sonship status, God often surprises us with favor that defies convention. When Jacob recounted God's faithfulness at Bethel, he wasn't focusing on how things should have been, but on how God actually showed up. Today, reflect on moments when God blessed you differently than you anticipated. Did you resist or embrace His unconventional provision? Like Jacob, who found strength as "Israel" even while weak as "Jacob," we discover that God's power is perfected in our weakness. His ways are higher than ours, and His blessings often come wrapped in unexpected packages. Will you consent to God's crisscross blessings today?

Day 2: Counting Your Blessings

Reading: Psalm 103:1-14

✚ Devotional: Jacob's life contained twenty hardships but also twenty blessings. As he neared death, he chose to rehearse God's faithfulness rather than catalog his complaints. He survived a dangerous twin birth, met God at Bethel, married his beloved Rachel, wrestled with the angel, reconciled with Esau, and reunited with Joseph. Each blessing was a divine fingerprint on his turbulent journey. Today, resist the temptation to only recount your difficulties. Make a list of twenty ways God has blessed you—the prayers answered, dangers averted, relationships restored, and provisions made. Like Jacob, you've been blessed with longevity, lucidity, and the privilege of influencing the next generation. Don't let hardship eclipse gratitude. A balanced perspective acknowledges pain while celebrating God's persistent presence and provision throughout your story.

Day 3: The God Who Shepherds

Reading: Psalm 23

✚ Devotional: Jacob's threefold blessing invoked "the God before whom my fathers walked, the God who has been my shepherd all my life, and the angel who has redeemed me from all harm." This beautiful testimony reveals a lifetime of divine companionship. God wasn't distant or detached—He shepherded Jacob through deception, exile, loss, and reunion. The Angel of the Lord appeared at every critical juncture, providing protection and direction. Today, reflect on how God has shepherded you through your darkest valleys and most dangerous paths. Where has His rod and staff comforted you? When has His presence been your greatest provision? Like Jacob, you can testify that God has been faithful "all the days of my life." Let this assurance anchor your soul today, knowing the same Shepherd who guided the patriarchs walks beside you now.

Day 4: Holding Promises Beyond Your Lifetime

Reading: Hebrews 11:8-16

[R] Devotional: In his final hours, Jacob's thoughts turned to promises he would never personally see fulfilled: "God will bring you back to the land of your fathers." He spoke of a homecoming he wouldn't experience, planting vision in Joseph's heart for a future beyond his own lifetime. This is faith at its finest—investing in promises that outlive us. What vision has God given you that your children or grandchildren will inherit? What spiritual legacy are you building that extends beyond your years? Jacob refused to let his family get comfortable in Egypt, reminding them that temporary safety wasn't ultimate home. Today, consider the generational promises you're stewarding. Speak them aloud. Rehearse them often. Write them down. Like Jacob, may you hold fast to God's promises until your dying day, ensuring the next generation never loses sight of their divine inheritance.

Day 5: Dissent or Consent?

Reading: Romans 9:14-21

.Devotional: Joseph experienced "spilkes"—anxious agitation—when Jacob crossed his hands, blessing Ephraim over Manasseh. For the first time, father and son disagreed. Joseph tried to correct what he perceived as a mistake, but Jacob insisted, "I know, my son, I know." Throughout Genesis, God consistently chose younger over older, defying cultural expectations: Abel over Cain, Isaac over Ishmael, Jacob over Esau, Joseph over Reuben, Judah over Simeon, Ephraim over Manasseh. When God's blessings come crisscross—different than expected—will you dissent or consent? Will you argue with the Potter about how He shapes the clay? Today, surrender your expectations about how, when, and where God should bless you. Release your grip on outcomes you've orchestrated in your mind. Trust that God's crossed hands still carry perfect blessing, even when they don't align with your preferences.

Reflection Question

How do you want to be remembered? What do you want your final blessings and words to communicate about who God has been in your life?



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